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the fact that the people of a county have passed a vote declaring local option.

Negligence—Liability of Owner of Falling Building.—*Steppe v. Alter et al.*, 19 South Rep. 147 (La.). The owner of a building damaged by fire is not excused from repairing it by the fact that the insurance company had elected to do so. As between himself and the public he owes the duty of keeping his premises in a safe condition and the law does not permit him to shift this responsibility to a third party.

Custom Duties—Instruments of Trade.—*United States v. Magnon*, 71 Fed. Rep. 293 (N. Y.). A snake charmer who brings snakes into this country purely for purposes of exhibition where she handles and turns them around her body is not obliged to pay duty under the provision, "All other live animals not specially provided for," but they are rather "instruments with which she practices her profession, and are her professional instruments," and hence free of duty under paragraph 686, Rev. Statutes.

Young Men's Christian Association—Liability for Negligence.—*Chapin v. Holyoke Y. M. C. A.*, 42 N. E. Rep. 1130. In this case, which was an action for damages resulting from the falling of a floor upon the plaintiff while she was at the laying of a corner stone to the Holyoke Y. M. C. A. building, the court held that the purposes of the Y. M. C. A. were social as well as charitable, since they provided theatrical and athletic entertainments for the peculiar benefit of their members, and hence were not exempted as purely charitable institutions are, from liability for negligence in construction of a floor whereby a visitor was injured .